

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A combined ring-shaped metal gasket ~~which is~~
disposed between two sealing object members, the gasket comprising: ~~and in which~~

at least two pieces of valley portions dented in a second direction perpendicular to a
first direction, and extending from a contact portion of one sealing object member to ~~[[the]]~~
an other sealing object member ~~are provided~~, wherein

~~[[a]]~~ at least one metallic ring is fitted to at least one of said valley portions, and
a maximum dimension of the metallic ring in a diameter direction of a longitudinal
section, in a non-compression state, is larger than a maximum dimension of the metallic ring
in a direction perpendicular to the diameter direction.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The combined ring-shaped metal gasket according to
claim 1, wherein at least one of said metallic rings is fitted to one of the valley ~~portion~~
portions on a lower pressure side of a fluid side of the gasket to be sealed and a non-fluid side
on ~~[[the]]~~ an opposite side of the gasket.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The combined ring-shaped metal gasket according to
claim 1, wherein at least one of said metallic rings is fitted to one of the valley ~~portion~~
portions on a lower temperature side of ~~[[the]]~~ a fluid side of the gasket to be sealed and
~~[[the]]~~ a non-fluid side on ~~[[the]]~~ an opposite side of the gasket.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The combined ring-shaped metal gasket according to
claim 1, wherein said metallic rings are fitted to all of the valley portions of the combined
ring-shaped metal gasket.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The combined ring-shaped metal gasket according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein said metallic ring is a metallic O-ring, a metallic irregular cross section ring, or a metallic rectangular cross section ring.

Claim 7-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The combined ring-shaped metal gasket according to claim [[7]] 2, wherein said metallic ring is a metallic ~~O-ring, metallic irregular cross section ring or metallic rectangular cross section ring~~ elliptical cross section ring or a metallic oval cross section ring.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The combined ring-shaped metal gasket according to claim [[8]] 3, wherein said metallic ring is a metallic ~~O-ring, metallic irregular cross section ring or metallic rectangular cross section ring~~ elliptical cross section ring or a metallic oval cross section ring.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The combined ring-shaped metal gasket according to claim [[9]] 4, wherein said metallic ring is a metallic ~~O-ring, metallic irregular cross section ring or metallic rectangular cross section ring~~ elliptical cross section ring or a metallic oval cross section ring.

Claim 13 (New): The combined ring-shaped metal gasket according to claim 2, wherein the valley portion on the lower pressure side of the gasket is smaller than the valley portion on a higher pressure side of the gasket.

Claim 14 (New): The combined ring-shaped metal gasket according to claim 3, wherein the valley portion on the lower temperature side of the gasket is smaller than the valley portion on a higher temperature side of the gasket.